

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01

AID-20 SSC-01 RSR-01 /102 W
----- 087418

R 021625 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1773

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GOERGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT NORVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1403

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, JM

SUBJ: JDF CHIEF OF STAFF RESIGNS

1. IN THE EVENING OF APR 30 A GOJ SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF BRIGADIER DAVID SMITH AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE. SMITH IMMEDIATELY WENT ON THREE MONTHS RETIREMENT LEAVE AND WAS REPLACED BY COLONEL DUNSTAN ROBINSON, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, JDF.

2. ALTHOUGH SMITH HAS BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND THE TIMING AND CHOICE OF A SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND SPECULATION IN KINGSTON, HIS RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MOST OF HIS FRIENDS AND LOCAL OBSERVERS. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ANNOUNCING HIS RESIGNATION HINTED THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT AT A NIGHT CLUB IN MONTEGO BAY, BUT THIS WAS DENIED BY THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN.

3. BRIGADIER SMITH HAS BEEN A LOYAL, APOLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL
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MILITARY LEADER, AND THOUGH HE HAS HAD A REPUTATION OVER THE YEARS FOR HIS CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL, HE HAS GENERALLY BEEN VERY CAREFUL IN HIS CONVERSATIONS AND SCRUPULOUSLY LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE FOR SOME TIME, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS NOT REACTED WITH ENTHUSIASM TO THE DESIRES AND REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PNP GOVERNMENT, ACTING ON THEIR AUTHORITY AS MINISTERS OF STATE, AND THIS MAY HAVE HAD SOME BEARING ON HIS DECISION AT THIS TIME.

DE ROULET

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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